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# sports

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## MISSOULA...

With basketball practice underway for more than a week, University of Montana cagers are working hard to find the right combinations that will lead to a successful season.

"It's still too early to tell what this team will accomplish," head basketball coach Jim Brandenburg says. "We're working hard on fundamentals and trying to build a strong base to work from."

Brandenburg says his young squad is working especially hard on team defense and rebounding. And the second year head coach is trying to come up with the best possible point combinations.

"We're very young overall but I've been pleased with this group's attitude so far. They are working very hard and morale is excellent," Brandenburg says.

Senior guard Michael Ray Richardson is the only proven starter back for the Grizzlies, but several other players have been very impressive so far. Fifteen athletes are out for the squad.

Freshman redshirt guard, Blaine Taylor from Missoula Hellgate is healing quickly from a broken finger suffered several weeks ago. He's now out of a cast and has the finger taped. Freshman center Marty Green, also from Hellgate, has been out with illness but is due back this week.

The Grizzlies open the season against Stout State in Missoula, Nov. 26 at 8:00 p.m. Season tickets are still on sale at the Adams Field House Ticket Office, open from 8 to 5 Monday through Friday. The Grizzlies are home for 13 games this season.



Terry is an easy-going fellow from the Culbertson where he played in the Class C ranks for Coach Ron Smith. Terry spent two Montana years at Minot State College in North Dakota before transferring to UM. He sat out from football in 1975, then was injured midway last season. Even with just a half-season of playing time Big Sky Coaches were impressed with what they saw, honoring Terry as a second team all-Big Sky offensive guard. This is actually his first and last real year of major college ball. Terry hopes to continue in pro ball but says that leaving the Grizzlies "is like losing a friend."

Terry and Ron share a camaraderie on and off the field. Former roommates, they often get together in their spare time. Both hail from Montana and enjoy hunting and fishing. Terry is a Business Administration major while Ron majors in Physical Education and hopes to teach and coach at the high school level.

Their friendship helps on the football field. Playing side by side, they know what the other can and will do in any situation. Ron says, "Everybody on the line is close. We know each other, our capabilities and limits. We can trust and rely on each other."

Both players agree that the coming Montana State game Oct. 29 is the most important game of their lives. They know the whole state will be watching the game and, as Montana natives, they feel a lot of pressure to win. For Lebsock, "This is the game I live for." Falcon agrees and adds "A victory over the Bobcats would make the season."

The results of this season have been somewhat disappointing for the two seniors. They feel the record doesn't reflect the UM performance. Ron, a four-year Grizzly veteran, believes "This is the best team, attitude-wise, I've ever played on. I wish I had four more years to play."

Grizzly fans also wish the talented duo could stay around for a few more years. They won't be easy to replace.